

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 251155Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7929

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, IN, YO

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS TITO-MRS. GANDHI MEETING SOON

REF: NEW DELHI 12326

1. SAMACHAR (THE INDIAN NEWS SERVICE) REPORTS IN A STORY DATED NEW DELHI, AUGUST 24, THAT PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND PRESIDENT TITO HAVE AGREED TO AN EARLY MEETING AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. ACCORDING TO SAMACHAR, OFFICIAL SOURCES IN NEW DELHI POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT TITO HAD ACCEPTED "WITH PLEASURE" AN UNOFFICIAL FRIENDLY VISIT TO INDIA, BUT LEFT DIRECTLY FROM SRI LANKA FOR YUGOSLAVIA AFTER HAVING EXTENDED HIS COLOMBO STAY BY ONE DAY TO REST FOLLOWING HIS INTENSIVE ACTIVITY AT THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. SAMACHAR ADDS THAT NEW DELHI SOURCES SAID THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SEVERAL FRUITFUL MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT TITO DURING THE CONFERENCE. THE STORY CONCLUDES THAT THE INDIAN AND YUGOSLAV DELEGATIONS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH ONE ANOTHER IN MAKING THE HISTORIC CONFERENCE A SUCCESS.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE POLCOUNSELOR ON AUGUST 23, MEA JOINT SECRETARY (EASTERN EUROPE) PURUSHOTTAM SAID THE TITO VISIT ORIGINALLY INVOLVED A BRIEF STOPOVER IN BANGALORE, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT WAS LENGTHENED TO INCLUDE A TRIP TO NEW DELHI. WHEN

THE VISIT BEGAN TO TAKE ON GREATER MAGNITUDE, TITO'S DOCTORS STEPPED IN AND HIISTED THE PRESIDENT RETURN DIRECTLY TO BELGRADE.

3. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE MEA IS TRYING TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON AN OVERZEALOUS INDIAN INITIATIVE TO BRING PRESIDENT TITO TO NEW DELHI. WE THINK, IN VIEW OF AN EARLIER REPORT (NEW DELHI 11158), THAT THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE AMPLE REASON TO BELIEVE THE NEXT HIGH-LEVEL VISIT SHOULD BE MRS. GANDHI TO BELGRADE, AND NOT PRESIDENT TITO TO NEW DELHI. IF THE PRIME MINISTER DOES IN FACT PLAN TO GO TO PARIS AT CONCEIVABLY A BELGRADE VISIT MIGHT CONVENIENTLY FIT INTO HER SCHEDULE WHENEVER THAT TAKES PLACE. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT SHE PLANS ANY EARLIER EXCURSIONS TO EUROPE, AND INCREASINGLY BELIEVE SHE HAS QUITE ENOUGH TO OCCUPY HER AT HOME.
SAXBE

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